

Kent History Federation report from Medway Archives Centre

It has been an interesting summer here at Medway Archives Centre. We celebrated our 1st anniversary here at Bryant Road on 4th July. Our new surroundings are generally thought to be an improvement on the Civic Centre site, but it has not been plain sailing.

We have been without an archivist since April, when Alison Cable left to become archivist to the Rochester Bridge Wardens Trust. We wish her well in her new post.

Our chief concern is to maintain a good level of service for our customers near and far, and all the remaining staff members have worked hard to achieve this. But our current shortages have necessitated a reduction in Saturday hours.

We are participating in several ventures with other Medway Council departments and external partners, providing background information, producing small exhibitions and facilitating art projects. Our current exhibition is *In Flanders field the poppies grow: the Men from Medway who gave their lives in 1918*. This is the last in a four year series commemorating Medway in the First World War. It has been researched and devised by Elaine Gardner, Chair of FOMA (Friends of Medway Archives) and runs until Saturday December 1st.

Since we moved we have held a series of Saturday events looking at particular locations in Medway. The next of these is on Saturday 6 October and focusses on Hempstead. This October marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, but the exhibition looks at many aspects of the area.

To find out more about events and exhibitions at MAC please visit our website www.medway.gov.uk/archives or our facebook page.

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Local Studies Librarian